



CES Unlocks New Option for Food Access with Outdoor Lockers

Community Emergency Service (CES) has introduced a new way for neighbors to access food—outdoor, temperature-controlled lockers now available outside CES’s building on 11th Avenue in South Minneapolis. CES is the first in the Midwest to pilot this model. “For many of our neighbors, access isn’t just about having enough food—it’s about being able to get it in a way that works for their lives,” said Jamie Dolynchuk, President of CES. “The lockers offer that flexibility and dignity. We’re proud to make this possible.”

Each day, 15 lockers are filled with fresh, nutritious food for scheduled pickup. Neighbors receive a secure code and can collect their food at a time that works best for them—no lines, no crowds, no added stress. This is especially helpful for neighbors managing work, health concerns, caregiving responsibilities, or limited transportation. The idea came from the CES team as part of a broader effort to reduce barriers to food access. “The food lockers are a lifesaver,” said one CES neighbor. “I can come when I’m able, and I don’t have to worry about visiting the food market when I can’t get there during open hours.”

Making the lockers possible also required a policy shift. CES worked closely with the City of Minneapolis to revise a zoning ordinance that had previously prohibited outdoor food storage. “This is about more than convenience,” Jamie added. “It’s about removing obstacles, listening to our neighbors, and creating real solutions rooted in care.” CES hopes to expand this model in the future, continuing to make food access more welcoming, flexible, and neighbor-focused. *Article by Kristin VanHeel*



Ventura Village News

- Our July neighborhood membership meeting will be Wednesday, July 9th, 7 PM at the ICCM Life Center, 1812 Park Avenue. You can get the Zoom Link by going to our website. We have cancelled our July Committee meeting and our August membership meeting.
- On July 17th all are welcome to join Our Saviour’s Community Services in celebrating the completion of renovations at our Emergency Shelter at 2219 Chicago Avenue. Tours of the facility will be offered 4PM – 6PM, with brief remarks planned for 5PM. Please contact robin@oscs-mn.org for more information.
- National Night Out is Tuesday, August 5th. You can begin planning now for your block by contacting your neighborhood Crime Prevention Specialist Kali at kali.pliego@minneapolismn.gov.
- On May 20th more than 30 neighbors met at Norway House to discuss the future of the Touchstone Plaza at Peavey Field Park. They agreed with the City of

- Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Park Board that the Plaza needs to be removed because of irreversible infrastructure problems. The tile mosaics will be salvaged and saved as much as possible. Watch for future plans for the park.
- Hope Community is offering free produce every Wednesday at their Rose Garden, 1900 Portland Avenue. Their stand will be open 4 PM to 6 PM. You can help them pick the produce and weed etc every Tuesday 4 - 6 PM.
 - Community Emergency Services is one of several organizations in our neighborhood that offer free food and meals to our residents. This article above is about changes they made to be more accessible and friendly to the neighborhood.

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